SECRET'S OUT

JESSICA CHASTAIN TELLS METRO WHY SHE COULD NEVER BE A CIA AGENT LIKE HER CHARACTER IN ZERO DARK THIRTY PAGE 17

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Shedding tears for India

Breaking the silence. Local protesters join effort to help eliminate culture of shame that makes women afraid to report sexual crimes

When Savita Verma heard that a 23-year-old woman had been brutally gang-raped and beaten on a bus in New Delhi, she felt helpless.

She felt helpless because her home country had not changed in the two decades since she had immigrated to Toronto. She felt helpless because she could not save the young woman, who succumbed to her injuries two weeks later.

"I cannot stop feeling that poor girl's pain. For weeks now, I have felt it — emotionally, physically, mentally," she said. "I want to tell her that I am doing something about what she went through, as a sister, but I can't."

Verma broke down in tears as she stood outside the Indian consulate in Toronto Thursday, alongside 50 other protesters who delivered a letter addressed to the president of India demanding action following the young woman's death.

Carrying placards that read "R.I.P Braveheart" and "Damini, we will not let your sacrifice go in vain," demonstrators marched in silence to the consulate at 365 Bloor St. E., where just one of the organizers was allowed inside.

With her twin eight-year-old daughters and husband in tow, Verma said she wanted to see a safer India than the one she grew up in. She was 18 when she was attacked on public transportation in New Delhi.

She had boarded an auto-rickshaw just after dawn. As the driver headed towards a secluded area, he reached back and tried to grab her.

Verma jumped out of the vehicle and ran frantically along the abandoned stretch of road. Finally, she came across a male jogger, who forced the driver to flee.

"It was just my sheer luck, to have a protective hand that saved me," she said. "If it was six men attacking me, like they did to that girl, imagine what my plight could have been."

It happened to her not just once, but many times, in India. Embracing her young daughters Esha and Maya, she said she had told them that "some bullies had attacked and killed a woman in India."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RAPE AND MURDER CHARGES HAVE BEEN LAID AGAINST THE ACCUSED MEN, PAGE 12

Letter to the president

- An official at the consulate promised organizers the letter, which has been signed by more than 300 people, would be sent to President Pranab Kumar Mukherjee.
- The letter demands the government and law enforcement become more accountable to victims of rape.

Facing fears

"As a mother, I am a chicken. But I want to make my daughters strong, so I have to be strong myself."

Savita Verma, activist

Savita Verma, a mother of two from Brampton, wipes a tear from her eye as she joins a protest outside the Indian Consulate in Toronto on Thursday. The tragic death of a 23-year-old woman who was gang-raped has sparked protests across India and abroad, potentially signalling a shift in attitudes in a country where sexual violence is entrenched. Verma and others sent a letter to India's president, demanding accountability for victims of rape. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stroller mom wants apology

A woman taking the Finch Rocket with her son says she was accosted by the driver, who said,'Where's his dad? He should be helping you' PAGE 2

Their school's a crime scene

Classes resume for Sandy Hook students in Newtown, Conn., at a different building that police guards say is "the safest school in America" PAGE 8

Wild-card NFL weekend

Seahawks QB Russell Wilson leads his team into a clash with the Redskins in one of four NFL playoff games this weekend PAGE 25

Ryan Gosling's itchy parts

Role in Gangster Squad required the actor to wear 1940s-inspired wool suits, which he says gave him a rash. Sensitive guy... PAGE 18

After asking a TTC bus driver to lower the platform to allow her and her son to board a bus, Jodi Christie says the driver told her she "should really get a smaller stroller that you can manage to lift onto the bus so that I don't have to mess around with this stupid bulls–t at 6:30 in the morning." DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mom files complaint against bus driver

TTC. Driver allegedly asked after toddler's father and complained about his stroller

Thursday was the second day of a new routine for Jodi Christie — her one-year-old son Atticus just started attending a Montessori school halfway between her Scarborough home and her downtown workplace.

At around 6:40 a.m., the 199 Finch Rocket pulled up to their bus stop. Christie says she asked the driver to lower the ramp so she could push the stroller onto the bus. The driver complied, and she thanked him while flashing her TTC pass.

As she went to take a seat on the bus, Christie, 32, alleges the driver told her she "should really get a smaller stroller that you can manage to lift onto the bus so that I don't have to mess around with this stupid bulls–t at 6:30 in the morning."

Surprised, she replied, "Excuse me?" The driver, she said, reiterated his statement. "You need to get a smaller stroller so that you can lift it onto the bus by yourself."

Christie said she held her tongue to avoid starting a potentially profanity-laced yelling match in front of her son.

When she tried once more to make her way toward a seat, the driver delivered the final blow.

"Where's his dad? He should be helping you. If he even has a father," he allegedly called out.

She was humiliated and she was angry. She filed an official complaint to the TTC when she reached work Thursday morning.

"I think my personal situation has nothing to do with me being able to ride the TTC freely," Christie said.

Her fiancé is equally upset about the driver's remarks, she said.

And her stroller is one of the smallest models on the market, bought specifically to make her trips on the TTC easier.

Christie said she'd like an apology, but mostly wants TTC drivers to know it's no cakewalk for parents trying to get around with their babies in tow.

"It's a whole world of b.s. just trying to push a stroller through snow, in the cold, with a baby ... He's really just sitting there, pushing a button, so it seems very insensitive for him to feel inconvenienced by me," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC response

TTC spokesperson Brad Ross said there will be an investigation into Christie's claims, and a punishment will be handed down if deemed necessary.

- "While these are allegations, the comments that are alleged to have been made are serious, and we take them seriously," he said.

Ikea monkey's new home

Petition accuses primate sanctuary of cruelty

A petition sent to the mayor of Brock and its six councillors accusing Storybook Farm Primate Sanctuary of animal cruelty is a tactic to discredit the operation by supporters of Darwin, better known as "the Ikea monkey," says Mayor Terry Clayton.

The petition, with some 116 signatures, was delivered to council members' homes Wednesday. It calls for an investigation into the sanctuary where Darwin now lives.

Darwin's owner, Yasmin Nakhuda, launched a lawsuit Dec. 14 in a bid to have the monkey, which is not a legal pet in her home community, returned to her. She says she's concerned their bond could be weakening.

The case will be back in court later this month.

On Thursday afternoon, a posting on a Facebook page called Darling Darwin Monkey indicated that a petition had been delivered to the town, the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Charities Directorate, requesting "an investigation in several allegations of cruelty, hoarding, manipulation, lack of experience and abuse of their charitable status by the Sanctuary." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WedLuxe

Wrong date for wedding show

Thursday's Backstage Pass column on page 16 of Metro contained an incorrect date for the WedLuxe Wedding Show. The show, which is open to the public, is this Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fairmont Royal York.

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Grits repealing anti-strike law

Labour. Announcement comes after Liberals impose contracts in dispute with teachers

Students across Ontario face more uncertainty when they head back to class next week, after the province's Liberals outraged unions by forcing two-year contracts on 126,000 public school teachers and education workers.

But Education Minister Laurel Broten said she will soon repeal the same controversial anti-strike law that gave her government the power to impose the collective agreements, which cut benefits and freeze the wages of most teachers.

Union leaders whose members have staged one-day strikes and cut out extracurricular activities in protest of the law wouldn't say what action they'd take in the weeks ahead. But they warned it won't be "business as usual."

Using "unprecedented, autocratic" legislation to dictate contracts, then promising to repeal the anti-democratic law is a "disgraceful misuse of government power," said Sam Hammond, president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

Broten blamed the escalating labour dispute on the teachers' unions, saying their leaders wouldn't engage in meaningful contract talks. ETFO left the provincial negotiating table after less than an hour and never returned, she said.

The Liberals had no option but to impose the contracts after ETFO and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation of Ontario failed to reach local agreements with school boards by the Dec. 31 deadline, she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"You cannot legislate goodwill and you cannot impose goodwill upon my members. You will not erase the stain of Bill 115 by simply repealing it after it's been used."

Sam Hammond, president, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Hit the hills, while there is still time

These two girls have nothing but fun sledding in Rennie Park in the west end on Thursday, as Toronto is hit with another dusting of snow. Enjoy the snow while you can, since much of it is expected to melt when above-freezing temperatures take hold by the weekend. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Report

T.O. ranked 1st in economic growth

Toronto has the fastest growing economy in Canada, CIBC says in a review of 25 major cities across the country.

The condo boom and rebound in auto exports to the U.S. helped push Toronto ahead of Calgary, Vancouver and the other western Canadian hotspots that dominated the top 10, the report published by the bank on Thursday found. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crime

Woman accused of hanging dog

Police are seeking the operator of an Ontario dog rescue they allege hung her dog in a Toronto shelter this summer after it was removed from her care.

Toronto police say the woman was supposed to be handing over the Shar-Pei to a new owner.

Rita Mueller, 50, of Bolton is wanted on charges including killing or injuring an animal and causing or permitting unnecessary pain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Honour. Chinatown grocer who made citizen's arrest to receive medal from PM

When Chinatown grocer David Chen caught and tied up a repeat shoplifter with twine and tossed him in a delivery van to await police three years ago, he never expected to one day receive a Diamond Jubilee medal from the prime minister.

"I'm very surprised," he said from his store, the Lucky Moose Food Mart, Thursday afternoon.

Chen, the inspiration behind the Conservative government's "citizen arrest" law, will receive his medal on Jan. 12, joining 60,000 Canadians to be so honoured for making "a significant contribution to Canada."

By his side at Chen's third meeting with Stephen Harper will be a few happy friends and family members, and Chi-Kun Shi, the lawyer who has stood by him through his initial arrest, trial and acquittal.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper visits with Lucky Moose Food Mart owner David Chen in February 2011. TANNIS TOOHEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The law, which came into effect last June, empowers a private citizen to arrest a suspect when caught red-handed, or within a reasonable time afterwards, if the option of using police has been ruled out.

It also allows people to take "reasonable" actions to protect themselves, their family and their property. It is up to a judge to determine what is considered reasonable in the circumstances.

Chen is still the go-to person for other small-shop owners when it comes to advice on dealing with shoplifters, he says. But despite the media and political attention, little about him has changed.

"I'm like normal," he said.

Chen is still considering what he'll do with the medal. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Monarch Park Collegiate

School is home to world-class sports facility

You could say the city burst Matt Raizenne's bubble.

The 33-year-old entrepreneur negotiated with staff for two years to build a domed sports field on city property. The deal eventually fell apart.

But that thwarted attempt would benefit at least one Toronto school.

Raizenne approached Monarch Park Collegiate when negotiations with the city stalled and offered to build the dome on a playing field behind the school, at no cost to the Toronto public board.

Students now have access to a world-class indoor running track and FIFA-grade artificial turf that is the same length as an NFL playing field.

The indoor track is so unique — the only one in southern Ontario with a 100-metre straightaway — that already Athletics Canada is sending national-level athletes to train at Monarch Park.

The Monarch site is set apart by the fact that the dome covers the track as well as the field.

"That is kind of unheard of in Ontario," said George Kourtis, the board's program co-ordinator of health and physical education, who says it's usually only the field that gets covered. "It's beautiful." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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655 Victoria Park Ave, Unit 2
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30A Rexdale Blvd
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Chartwell Shopping Centre
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Woodside Square Mall
4352 Kingston Rd, Unit 7B

TTC EMBRACING NEW WAYS TO BETTER SERVE RIDERS

ANDY BYFORD
CEO
TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

Being open to new ideas and learning from others are key elements of our refreshed TTC philosophy.

In the past, the TTC has been accused in some quarters of having a certain arrogance and a "not-invented-here" mindset. While there is a lot of good practice at the TTC, I am very keen that we should embrace new ways of working and that we should adopt successful practices from other operators.

I was in London, England, recently and it was striking to note just how much progress has been made on delivering a more consistent level of service across a big, much older system. Of particular interest to me was the way that customer information was provided across a range of media.

It was also noticeable that the staff were very proactive in the passing of information — pretty much as soon as a delay occurred.

The TTC participates in a benchmarking group of similar-sized transit systems, and this is very useful for assessing our relative performance and for seeing where we can do better. You may be surprised to learn that, contrary to general opinion, the TTC is actually one of the most efficiently run systems in terms of its cost of operations and level of subsidy per rider.

That said, there is clearly lots more for us to do. It is useful to have had the experience of working in other countries and on different systems: You pick up good ideas that can be quickly introduced here without the need to design a solution from scratch.

As an example, Sydney's RailCorp is very used to dealing with huge crowds for the world-famous Harbour Bridge New Year's Eve celebrations. Tried and tested plans safely deliver around one million revellers to and from the event, so it made sense to me to rework our major-event plans using templates that we could easily adapt. In similar vein, London Underground has highly sophisticated fire and evacuation plans that provide a very useful benchmark for ensuring that our own subway plans are fit for purpose, albeit on a much less complex system.

By learning from others, and through better use of our own expert staff, we will progressively improve all aspects of the TTC.

TTC CONTACT INFORMATION

TTC Information
· By phone: 416-393-4636 (INFO)

Customer Service
· By phone: 416-393-3030 (Daily, 7 a.m. -10 p.m., except statutory holidays)

· On-line form: www.ttc.ca

· By mail: Toronto Transit Commission, 1900 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont., M4S 1Z2

· In person: Customer Service Centre, 1900 Yonge St. (Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., except statutory holidays. Extended hours, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., every Thursday and the first and the last business day of each month.)

Twitter
· @TTCnotices for service advisories; @TTChelps for customer service

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· www.facebook.com/TTCnotices

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· www.youtube.com/OfficialTTCChannel

Service Alerts
· To receive real-time email notices that keep you informed of all major subway/RT, bus, and streetcar service disruptions, register for personalized TTC e-Services at www.ttc.ca.

Next Vehicle Arrival System
· Next Vehicle Arrival System will allow you to receive real-time route data for the next bus or streetcar at any specific stop. The information is available at no charge directly through our partner website, www.nextbus.com.

· Real-time information is also available via SMS on your mobile phone. (Standard rates apply. Check with your service provider.) Streetcar and bus stop numbers can be found on the specific route pages on ttc.ca.

RECYCLE

Please keep the TTC litter-free. Recycle your reading materials in any station or platform receptacle.

DID YOU KNOW?

By the end of 2012, the TTC expects to have carried 514 million riders, with a projected ridership of 528 million in 2013.

TTC FARE INCREASE REMINDERS

Effective Jan. 1, TTC riders will see a fare increase on tickets, tokens, and passes, with cash fares and children's fares frozen in 2013. Customers can use old TTC Senior/Student tickets, with an additional cash fare of five cents, until Feb. 28.

Old Ticket/Pass Refunds:

Old TTC Senior/Student tickets and Day Passes can be refunded in person at the TTC MDP Office, 1900 Yonge St., above Davisville Station, Monday to Friday, until December 2013. Select collector booths will offer refunds until Feb. 28, beginning with Bloor-Yonge Station (Bloor Street southside entrance) on Jan. 2, followed by Kipling, Warden, Finch and Downsview as of Feb. 1.

Alternatively, customers can receive a refund by mailing old TTC Senior/Student tickets and Day Passes to TTC Accounts Payable, 1900 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M4S 1Z2.

Effective Mar. 1, TTC Senior/Student tickets and Day Passes will not be accepted.

HOLIDAY DAY PASS

Until Jan. 6, customers can enjoy a TTC Day Pass for family group travel. For just $10.75 per day, a Day Pass provides unlimited one-day travel for a group of up to six people, maximum two adults over 19. The Day Pass is valid from the start of service until 5:30 a.m. the next morning.

EVENTS

JAN. 4, 6 & 9:

· **Toronto Raptors at Air Canada Centre:** Subway to Union Station. Expect minor delays due to ongoing construction at the station.

JAN. 5:

· **Toronto Marlies at Ricoh Coliseum:** 511 Bathurst streetcar to Exhibition Place.

SERVICE CHANGES

CONSTRUCTION:

· Train service on the Yonge-University-Spadina line continues to turn back at Eglinton Station after 12:30 a.m., Sunday to Friday, for necessary tunnel-maintenance work. Replacement shuttle buses operate between Eglinton and Finch Stations.

· **72A Pape** buses diverting Church, Wellington, York, King, Church, and The Esplanade, servicing stops outside King and St Andrew Stations due to work related to the Union Station Second Platform and Concourse Improvements Project.

· **509 Harbourfront** streetcars replaced by buses until spring 2013. Eastbound diverting via Lake Shore Boulevard, westbound via Queens Quay. The replacement bus stop on Bay, south of Front, has been relocated to the north side of Front Street.

For more information on these and other routes, please visit www.ttc.ca

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Switzerland

3 gunned down in village streets

A shooting in southern Switzerland has left three women dead, two men wounded and highlighted the ease of access to firearms in the gun-loving nation.

The suspect, a 33-year-old unemployed man living on disability, opened fire from his apartment and pursued people in the street Wednesday night in the village of Daillon, authorities in the Swiss canton (state) of Valais said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah

Elvis Presley too hot for 2013

A parent who was upset about Elvis Presley songs in a high school drama prompted educators in Utah to cancel the production, deeming it too sexually suggestive.

Presley's lyrics and a scene suggesting cross-dressing in All Shook Up were deemed too offensive for Herriman High School. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York

Paper needs guns after outing users

A New York state newspaper that created a public outcry when it published the names and addresses of residents with handgun permits is being protected by armed guards.

Journal News last month published online maps with the names and addresses of pistol permit holders in two counties it covers. It sought the public records after the school shooting in nearby Newtown, Conn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Teens cuffed for drugging parents

Two California teenagers were arrested after they gave one of the girl's parents milkshakes spiked with prescription sleeping pills so she could use the Internet past her curfew, police said.

The 15-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old friend were taken to Juvenile Hall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students attend their first day at Sandy Hook clone

Newtown shooting. School in neighbouring town made to look as close as possible to old school — plus security

Signs welcome more than 400 students to the former Chalk School in Monroe, Conn. JESSICA HILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Classes resumed Thursday for the students of the Newtown, Conn., school where a gunman last month killed 20 children and six adults in the second-largest school shooting in U.S. history.

With their school still being treated as a crime scene, the more than 400 students of Sandy Hook Elementary School attended classes in neighbouring Monroe.

Returning students, teachers and administrators were met by a large police presence outside their new school, an overhauled middle school that had been shuttered for nearly two years. Several officers guarded the entrance and checked IDs of parents dropping off children.

Law-enforcement officers guarding the new school called it "the safest school in America."

Students found the same chairs and desks, when possible. Their classroom walls were painted the same colours and hung with the same pictures. Other details, such as the location of bookshelves and cubby holes, were replicated as much as possible.

The school district said parents who wanted to be close to their children were welcome to visit and stay in classrooms or an auditorium.

Newtown superintendent Janet Robinson said officials would do their best to make the students feel at ease.

"We will be doing a normal day," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niggling doubt

"It's very hard to turn off the little 'What if?'.... Dec. 14 started out as a normal day, too."

Sarah Caron, 32, parent of two kids scarred by the shooting, upon seeing them go back to school

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Algarve Long Stay, Air + 19 Nights $1289
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INCLUDES Albufeira area self-catering accom near the beach with full kitchen. Departs Feb 9/exo/s4.

Cancun March Break, Air + 7 Nights $1411
Hacienda de Castilla
INCLUDES accom in downtown Cancun. Departs Mar 9/swg/wg.

Hawaii Valentine's Day Island Hopper
Air + 8 Nights $1829
Makena Beach & Golf Resort, Aqua Aloha Surf Waikiki
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Hunger strike. Chief Spence wants action from Ottawa within 72 hours

Efforts to broker a solution to end a 24-day-old hunger strike by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence have foundered.

First Nations leaders had initially proposed a Jan. 24 meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston and took their proposal to Spence's teepee on Thursday afternoon.

But Spence told the aboriginal leaders Thursday that her failing health means she can't wait that long for assurances that her concerns about treaty rights will be addressed.

"She remains committed, she remains strong and she remains steadfast in what she is setting out to do," said Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, which includes the Attawapiskat First Nation.

Spence has been subsisting mainly on fish broth since Dec. 11, huddling in a tent on Victoria Island on the Ottawa River, just beyond Parliament Hill.

Spence has no problem with First Nations leaders meeting with Harper in a few weeks time, Louttit said, but she wants to be included in a preliminary meeting well before then.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, right, is in her fourth week of a hunger strike calling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to meet and discuss First Nations issues. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unwanted pregnancy

Man who poked holes in condoms loses sexual assault appeal

A Nova Scotia man convicted of sexual assault for trying to trick his girlfriend into becoming pregnant by poking holes in her condoms has lost his appeal.

Craig Jaret Hutchinson of Shelburne County was given an 18-month sentence in late 2011 after his judge-only trial heard that he pricked his girlfriend's condoms with a pin in 2006 so she would get pregnant and not break up with him.

The Halifax-area woman became pregnant and had an abortion, but she later suffered an infection of her uterus.

Hutchinson later filed an appeal, arguing that the Nova Scotia Supreme Court's sentence was excessive and that the woman voluntarily consented to having sex with him.

But in a 4-1 majority decision, the court said the sentence was not unfit and the trial judge was correct to conclude that the woman did not consent to having unprotected sex.

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Alberta

Private info given by dating firm

Alberta's privacy commissioner has ordered a speed-dating company to tighten its training after a woman complained her email address was given to a smitten suitor who didn't interest her.
In a seven-page ruling, the commissioner details how the unnamed woman attended a speed-dating event by Fast Life International. A few days later, two emails appeared in her inbox from a man who was there.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facebook

Canadians to test new feature

Facebook has chosen Canadian users to be first testers of a new mobile feature to make free phone calls. Facebook's new Messenger app for Apple mobile devices enables voice-over-Internet protocol phone calls, which use data instead of eating into the minutes in a plan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honesty. London man finds and returns lost iPhone via Facebook wall

A London, Ont., woman had her lost iPhone returned after a 20-year-old Good Samaritan found the phone and posted a message on her own Facebook wall.

"I found your phone ... this morning on my walk downtown, I know how much it sucks to lose your phone, but I just wanted to let you know your phone is safe and it doesn't appear to be damaged :)," said the posting by Londoner Gage de Vries.

The good news story quickly spread among Kellie Renwick's Facebook friends.

As comments and "likes" continued to pile up, Renwick and de Vries were able to eventually meet at de Vries' home so Renwick could retrieve her phone.

Renwick, 22, says she's "pretty notorious for losing phones and whatnot," and she's forever grateful for its return.

The phones sell for as much as $700.

Though she's not completely certain, Renwick figures she left the iPhone on the roof of her car while hurriedly packing for a trip to Toronto.

Fittingly, right after Renwick left the de Vries residence, she expressed her gratitude on — you guessed it — her Facebook wall.

"I wish there were more people like Gage de Vries in the world," she said. "A true Good Samaritan, thank you so much for your kindness and honesty." JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Gage de Vries returned Kellie Renwick's lost iPhone. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

This undated photo shows a pod of narwhals off the coast of northern Canada. KRISTIN LAIDRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities go after tusk smugglers

Narwhals. Two U.S. men charged with smuggling and money laundering; American prosecutors allege Canadians involved

A smuggling ring brought narwhal tusks from the Canadian Arctic into the United States in a trailer with a secret compartment and then illegally sold them to American buyers, officials said.

Andrew Zarauskas, of New Jersey, and Jay Conrad, of Tennessee, will be arraigned in Bangor, Maine, next week on 29 federal smuggling and money laundering charges each.

For nearly a decade, two Canadians smuggled the whale tusks into Maine and shipped them via FedEx to Zarauskas, Conrad and other unnamed American buyers, according to an indictment.

Narwhals are known as the unicorns of the sea for their spiral, ivory tusks that can grow longer than two metres. The tusks can sell for thousands of dollars each, but it's illegal to import them into the U.S.

The court document doesn't specify how much money was involved, but it says the Canadian sellers received at least 150 payments from tusk buyers.

"The conspiracy we've alleged was over a period of 10 years, so there appears to have been enough of a market to support that length of conduct," said Todd Mikolop, who is prosecuting the case for the environmental crimes section of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Narwhals live in Arctic waters and are harvested by Inuit hunters for their meat, skin and tusks, said Calvin Kania, president of Furcanada in British Columbia, which sells tusks to buyers who want them for display purposes or to turn into jewelry.

Two Canadians have also been charged in connection with the case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rape and murder charges laid against accused in gang rape

Global outrage.
Protesters gather in New Delhi and around the world to push for stricter laws against sexual assaults in India

Indian women lawyers shout slogans Thursday against police and the government outside the District Court complex in New Delhi, India, where a new fast-track court was inaugurated Wednesday to deal specifically with crimes against women. MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five men accused of raping a university student for hours on a bus as it drove through India's capital were charged Thursday with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty.

The attack on the 23-year-old woman, who died of severe internal injuries over the weekend, provoked a fierce debate across India about the routine mistreatment of females and triggered daily protests demanding action.

There have been signs of change since the attack. Rapes, often ignored, have become front-page news, politicians have called for tougher laws, including the death penalty and chemical castration for rapists, and the government is examining wide-scale reforms in the criminal justice system's handling of sexual assaults. Activists say the tragedy could mark a turning point for women's rights.

In a nation where court cases often linger for years, the government set up a special fast-track court Wednesday to deal with crimes against women, and that is where the charges against the five men were filed Thursday evening. The government said it planned to open four more of those courts in the city.

Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan filed a case of rape, tampering with evidence, kidnapping, murder and other charges against the men. The charge sheet was not released and he asked for a closed trial. A hearing was set for Saturday.

The men charged were Ram Singh, the bus driver; his brother Mukesh Singh, who cleans buses for the same company; Pavan Gupta, a fruit vendor; Akshay Singh, a bus washer; and Vinay Sharma, a fitness trainer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backwards justice

Many cases in India never get to court because of intense social pressure against families reporting sexual assaults, which are often blamed on the victims.

- When women do report rapes, police often refuse to file charges and pressure the victims to reach a compromise with their attackers.
- The 23-year-old was attacked Dec. 16 after boarding a bus with a male companion after watching an evening showing of the movie Life of Pi at a mall.

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Iceland sued by a girl with no name

Personal Names Register. List has 1,853 female names that fit Icelandic rules; Blaer is not one of them

A 15-year-old girl is suing the Icelandic state for the right to legally use the name given to her by her mother. The problem? Blaer, which means "light breeze" in Icelandic, is not on a list approved by the government.

Like a handful of other countries, including Germany and Denmark, Iceland has official rules about what a baby can be named. Parents can take from the list or apply to a special committee that has the power to say yea or nay.

In Blaer's case, her mother said she learned the name wasn't on the register only after the priest who baptized the child later informed her he had mistakenly allowed it.

The panel turned down the name on the grounds that the word Blaer takes a masculine article, despite the fact that it was used for a female character in a novel by Iceland's revered Nobel Prize-winning author Halldor Laxness.

Blaer is identified as "Stulka" — or "girl" — on all her official documents, which has led to years of frustration as she has had to explain the whole story at the bank, renewing her passport and dealing with the country's bureaucracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a name?

"Blaer is a perfectly Icelandic name.... And my daughter loves her name."

Bjork Eidsdottir, mother. She says she knew a Blaer whose name was accepted in 1973.

Blaer Bjarkardottir, 15, left, and her mother, Bjork Eidsdottir, pose outside a court building in Reykjavik. ANNA ANDERSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bottle thrower on trial

Ashley Gill-Webb, 34, leaves Stratford Magistrates Court in London Thursday. He is on trial for allegedly hurling abuse at Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and throwing a plastic beer bottle at the starting line at the London Olympics five months ago. Prosecutors say Gill-Webb got into an exclusive trackside area for the men's 100-metre final without an eligible ticket. Bolt went on to win the gold medal in 9.63 seconds.

ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One way to beat tax man. Putin grants citizenship to French actor Depardieu

The Kremlin has cast French actor Gerard Depardieu in one of the most surprising roles of his life — as a new Russian citizen.

The announcement Thursday that President Vladimir Putin has approved Depardieu's application for citizenship is almost a real-life analogue to the French actor's 1990 comedy Green Card, in which his character enters into a sham marriage in order to work in the United States.

But in this version taxes appear to be at the heart of the matter. Depardieu has waged a battle against a proposed super-tax on millionaires in his native country.

Gerard Depardieu
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French President Francois Hollande plans to raise the tax on earned income above €1 million ($1.3 million) to 75 per cent from the current 41 per cent, while Russia has a flat 13 per cent tax rate.

A representative for the former Oscar nominee declined to say whether he had accepted the Russian offer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ho Chi Minh City. Starbucks to open first café in Vietnam

Starbucks Corp. says it will open its first Vietnam café early next month in Ho Chi Minh City as part of its strategy to expand across Asia.

The chain will be entering a country of coffee lovers that already has an established market. At least two popular homegrown chains have dozens of locations across the country.

Vietnam is the world's second-largest coffee producer, behind Brazil, and provides high-quality beans for Starbucks stores in other countries.

Starbucks operates more than 3,300 stores across 11 countries in China and the Asia-Pacific region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, D.C. Google chief's North Korean visit 'unhelpful,' according to U.S. government

The U.S. government is voicing opposition to a planned North Korea visit by Google's executive chairman. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Thursday the timing of the visit by Eric Schmidt and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is "unhelpful."

People familiar with the plans tell The Associated Press the trip will happen as early as this month.

Last month, North Korea shot a satellite into space on the back of a three-stage rocket in defiance of a UN ban. Washington and others decried it as a covert test of ballistic missile technology and are seeking UN Security Council action against Pyongyang.

Nuland said Schmidt and Richardson were "well aware" of the U.S. government's views. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overseas accounts

Swiss bank to pay $57.8M in U.S. tax-evasion case

Switzerland's oldest bank became the first foreign bank to plead guilty in the United States to tax charges when it admitted Thursday that it helped U.S. clients hide more than $1.2 billion US from the Internal Revenue Service. Wegelin & Co. agreed to pay a total of $57.8 million US under a plea deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

- **DOLLAR** 101.21¢ (-0.29¢)
- **TSX** 12,470.44 (-70.33)
- **OIL** $92.92 US (-20¢)
- **GOLD** $1,674.60 US (-$14.20)

Natural gas: $3.19 US (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,391.36 (-21.19)

Mother Nature racks up $65B in insurance payouts for 2012

Disaster toll. Weather events led by Superstorm Sandy cost the industry dear, but total is down from record set during earthquake-ridden 2011

A man walks past a small commercial strip that burned down during Superstorm Sandy in the Rockaways section of New York City on Wednesday. The storm cost insurers $25 billion US in payouts. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natural disasters cost insurers $65 billion US last year, with the United States accounting for nine-tenths of the bill and Superstorm Sandy prompting payouts of $25 billion, a leading insurance company said Thursday.

However, Munich Re AG said that the total insured losses worldwide were down from a record $119 billion in 2011, when devastating earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand cost the industry dear.

The company said total economic costs in 2012 from natural disasters worldwide — including uninsured losses — amounted to $160 billion, compared with the previous year's $400 billion.

Sandy, which battered eastern coastline areas at the end of October, killed at least 125 people in the United States and 71 people in the Caribbean.

Munich Re estimated insured losses from Sandy at $25 billion and total losses at $50 billion, though it cautioned that the figures are "still subject to considerable uncertainty." That made it the year's most costly disaster. The lengthy drought that seared swathes of the U.S. last summer produced 2012's second-biggest insurance bill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican unable to take plastic

Ben Kiniry of Texas gets cash from an ATM along the main road leading to the Vatican on Thursday. For now, Vatican tourists can only use cash to pay for tickets and souvenirs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's "cash only" now for tourists at the Vatican wanting to pay for museum tickets, souvenirs and other services after Italy's central bank decided to block electronic payments, including credit cards, at the tiny city-state.

Deutsche Bank Italia, which for some 15 years had provided the Vatican with electronic-payment services, said Thursday that the Bank of Italy had pulled its authorization after Dec. 31. The Corriere della Sera newspaper reported that the Italian central bank took the action because the Holy See has not yet fully complied with European Union safeguards against money laundering. That means Italian banks are not authorized to operate within the Vatican, which is in the process of improving its mechanisms to combat laundering.

The Vatican says it is scrambling to solve the problem for thousands of visitors who flock to its very popular Vatican Museums, which include highlights such as the Sistine Chapel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"A lot of tourists don't have cash on them so they have to get euros and don't know where to get them." Fluger William Hunter, an American tourist in Vatican City

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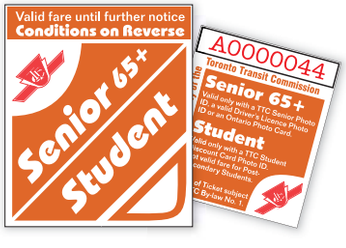

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THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

I spent my holiday honing my psychic skills. Here are my predictions for the year ahead:

1 **Deja-vu.** This year's top reality show will feature a mother managing the careers of her daughters who, with no discernible talents, eclipse professional entertainers for roles and public attention as they date, marry and divorce rich celebrities. Hey ... wait a minute ...

2 **And yet....** Kim Kardashian will resist the temptation to repeat previous mistakes and enter hastily into marriage with Kanye West. She will publicly reveal her enlightenment regarding the seriousness of such commitment right before she announces that video cameras will be installed in her uterus to broadcast her pregnancy from within.

3 **Do not pass go.** Lindsay Lohan will go to prison. Not so much a "prediction" but I'm probably not wrong.

4 **Weed warnings.** Legalized marijuana will become a growth-market and be sold, pre-rolled, in packages like cigarettes. Cautionary labels will read: "Song lyrics may seem more profound than they truly are," "Please refrain from making career-altering decisions while under the influence of this product," and "Dude, don't forget the Cheetos."

5 **Here she comes.** Honey Boo Boo child, in a "go-go juice"-rage, will pummel a pageant adversary, and emerge as trailer park queen-for-a-day. Endorsement deals will allow her to set aside funds for the therapy and new set of teeth she will eventually require.

6 **Jersey-jacking.** Former cast members of Jersey Shore will be kidnapped by terrorists and held hostage. A series of prolonged negotiations will be televised and the perpetrators will end up winning an MTV award.

7 **50 Shades of Stress.** Once the concept of BDSM is acclimatized into public consciousness by the novels of E. L. James, studies will show accelerated hair-loss in fathers with daughters.

8 **Stellar sequels.** Disney will attempt to shake up the decaying Star Wars franchise by producing new chapters with elements that have proven successful for them in the past. In the new version, Luke Skywalker will be played by a mouse with a high-pitched voice, Darth Vader will be a large bulldog, and R2D2 will be played by a member of the George W. Bush administration.

9 **RIM rocks.** The much-anticipated BlackBerry 10 will launch to critical acclaim, causing millions of consumers to say, "Gee, too bad I already bought the iPhone."

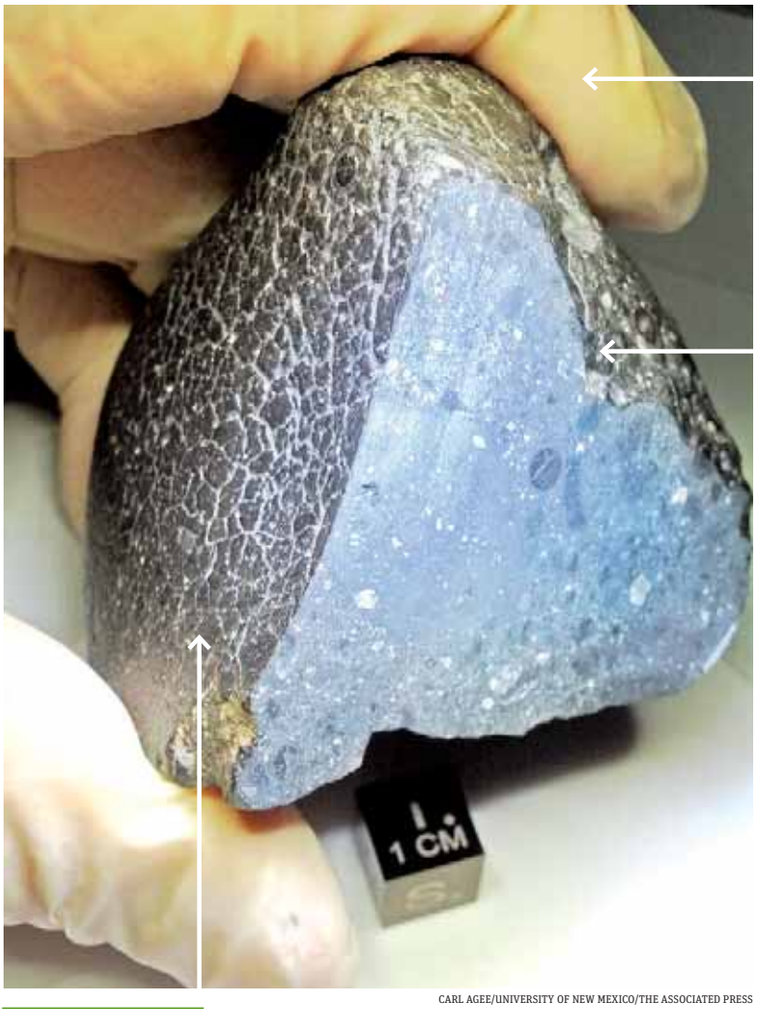
10 **Playdate.** Hugh Hefner, 86, and blushing new bride, 26-year-old Crystal Harris, will celebrate their honeymoon by going on a senior's cruise with her grandparents.

11 **Shut the puck up.** Desperate for action after prolonged negotiations, NHL fans will receive gratification when commissioner Gary Bettman is unsuspectingly body-checked by a large hockey mom. Five million hits on YouTube.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Sweet grass: Fast Eddy Aki'a of Hawaii smokes a joint as thousands gathered to collectively light up at 4:20 p.m. on April 20, 2012, in Denver. GETTY IMAGES FILE

A little bit of Mars on Earth



CARL AGEE/UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mars-velous meteorite

Black Beauty rocks science world

Scientists are abuzz about this rock from Mars that landed in the Sahara desert: A yearlong analysis revealed it's quite different from other Martian meteorites.

Not only is it older than most, it also contains more water. The baseball-size meteorite, estimated to be two billion years old, is strikingly similar to the volcanic rocks examined by the NASA rovers Spirit and Opportunity on the Martian surface. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Triangular treasure

"Here we have a piece of Mars that I can hold in my hands. That's really exciting."

Carl Agee, director of the Institute of Meteoritics and curator at the University of New Mexico, who led the study published online Thursday in the journal Science.

Found in the desert

Rock dated 2nd oldest Mars find

The latest meteorite, known as NWA 7034 and nicknamed Black Beauty, was donated to the University of New Mexico by an American who bought it from a Moroccan meteorite dealer last year.

Researchers performed a battery of tests on the meteorite and based on its chemical signature confirmed that it was blasted to Earth from Mars. At 2.1 billion years old, it's the second-oldest known Martian meteorite.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rare and ancient

65
About 65 Martian rocks have been recovered on Earth, mostly in Antarctica or the Sahara.

4.5B
The oldest dates back 4.5 billion years to a time when Mars was warmer and wetter.

1.3B
About half a dozen Martian meteorites are 1.3 billion years old and the rest are 600 million years or younger.

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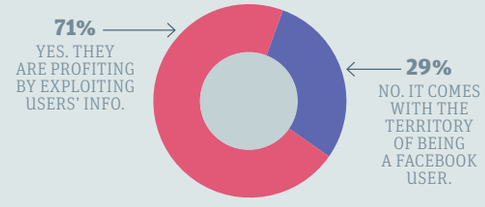
Facebook is being accused of changing privacy settings indiscreetly. Do you care?



Twitter

@A_Man_From_TO: Repealing #bill115 now an empty and hypocritical gesture since strikes remain illegal. Repeal and RENEGOTIATE #onpoli #OFLabour #ETFO #osstf

@Paddy_Stevenson: God bless you boys ! We all have those days. Love the juniors!

@A_Kozovski: Don't know what to say about the World Juniors — still upset. Knew they had to get a loss or a stinker out of the way earlier, oh well.

@arebeewhy: Canada lost in the world juniors again? Oh.

@Pletschy: Applied to OCT yesterday, contracts imposed on teachers under #Bill115 today.... #FutureTeacherProblems

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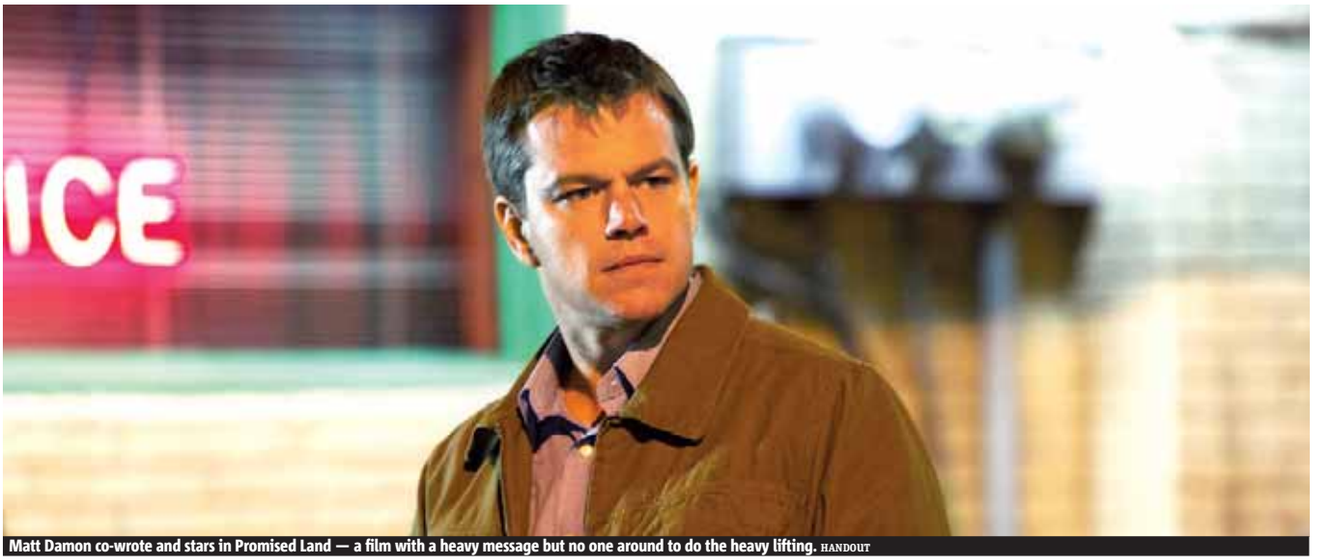

Matt Damon co-wrote and stars in Promised Land — a film with a heavy message but no one around to do the heavy lifting. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Promised Land lost

Sporadic dramatics.

The Reel Guys disagree if this flick walks a good balance of ideals or hits you over the head with its morals

Richard: Mark, Promised Land is one of those message movies you know is going to end with a big speech, so you just hope it's an entertaining ride until the final oration. In this case, I think the movie let its sense of earnestness overpower the entertainment.

It has good, likeable actors in a story that might have been better served in documentary form, rather than the contrived drama presented here.

Mark: Richard, the last thing I would want to watch is a documentary on the effects of gas drilling on farmland communities. The drama may be contrived, but at least it's drama. I liked watching Matt Damon as he slowly realizes his moral complicity in an unsavoury venture. And Frances McDormand was great as his cynical, wisecracking sidekick. Yes, there's a big speech at the end, but you know the rule: when they show a town hall in act one, they're sure going to use it in act three.

RC: I know. And it is just that kind of formulaic filmmaking that kept the joy away for me. Maybe they fell into formula to make people feel comfortable with the amount of info they're being fed. It's hard to make talk of water table pollution dramatic, and while Promised Land makes an attempt by giving much of the heavy lifting to Hal Holbrook, the grand old man of the cast, it's still only as dramatic as a high school science class lecture.

MB: It's a bit more involving than that! The town has to choose between the hard-bitten realism of Damon's character, and the idealism of John Krasinski's interloper. I enjoyed watching the townspeople squirm as they made their choices. It's classic good versus evil, except that it's not. Did you guess the plot twist near the end? It took me by surprise.

RC: I didn't see the plot twist coming ... because it is totally unbelievable! That aside, the movie gets many of the details right — it's set in a town where the general store is called Rob's Guns, Groceries, Guitars and Gas — and its heart is certainly in the right place, but unlike movies like Erin Brockovich, which managed to mix message and medium, Promised Land feels crushed under the weight of its own heavy hand.

MB: Really, Richard, I thought the message was underplayed, especially compared to films like North Country and Silkwood. It's not a great film, even by the standards of bringing an important issue to light, but the performances and texture made it watchable for me.

Synopsis

Matt Damon (who also co-wrote the script with co-star John Krasinski) stars as Steve Butler, a charming salesman sent to a small Pennsylvania farming community to lease land for a giant natural gas company's fracking project. For him, it's a personal crusade; he believes he's transforming the lives of the cash-strapped farmers. For his partner Sue Thomason (Frances McDormand) it's a job that simply keeps her away from her young son. Complicating matters is Dustin Noble (Krasinski), an environmental activist who, as his last name might imply, comes to town to raise the alarm about the real cost of Steve and Sue's business offer.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

Jessica Chastain's mission impossible

Zero Dark Thirty. There were lots of whispers about Kathryn Bigelow's film on the bin Laden hunt — and its star struggled with keeping secrets...

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Zero Dark Thirty opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Don't let her impressive work in Zero Dark Thirty fool you. Golden Globe-nominated actress Jessica Chastain would make a horrible CIA agent.

It's something she learned not while filming the real-life drama about the hunt for Osama bin Laden, but instead when the film became one of the most scrutinized projects in recent history — even before a frame had been shot. It got so bad that all cast members would tell the press was that director Kathryn Bigelow had made them sign confidentiality agreements ensuring their silence.

"I am the worst at keeping secrets. I'm the kind of person who, the second that I buy someone a Christmas present, I tell them what I bought them. I don't wait till Christmas. I'm not good at it," Chastain explains.

Luckily, there were those confidentiality agreements. "When I was cast in this, I was so excited about this character of Maya. I found her to be really inspiring and the script was incredible, it was so eye-opening. But I had to keep it a secret," she says. "There was a lot of press coming out and people were speculating that I was (playing) a Navy SEAL wife and all this stuff, and I had to just really hold my tongue for a year. So I'm very excited that people are now seeing the film and they're realizing it's not a propaganda film and it doesn't have an agenda. It just tries to show this moment in history as accurately as possible."

Role research

Playing a mystery woman

One of Chastain's obstacles in tackling the role of Maya was that, while she's based on a real person, there was no way the actress could actually meet her. So she took a different approach to her research. "I had three months before we started shooting that I went to school for it, I guess. I nicknamed (screenwriter) Mark (Boal) 'the Professor.' And I would sit with him and go through the screenplay and ask a lot of questions about the character I was playing, about the CIA," she says. "Because I was never able to meet the real woman it's based on because she's an undercover agent, I had to use my imagination to fill in the blanks where the research couldn't answer the questions."

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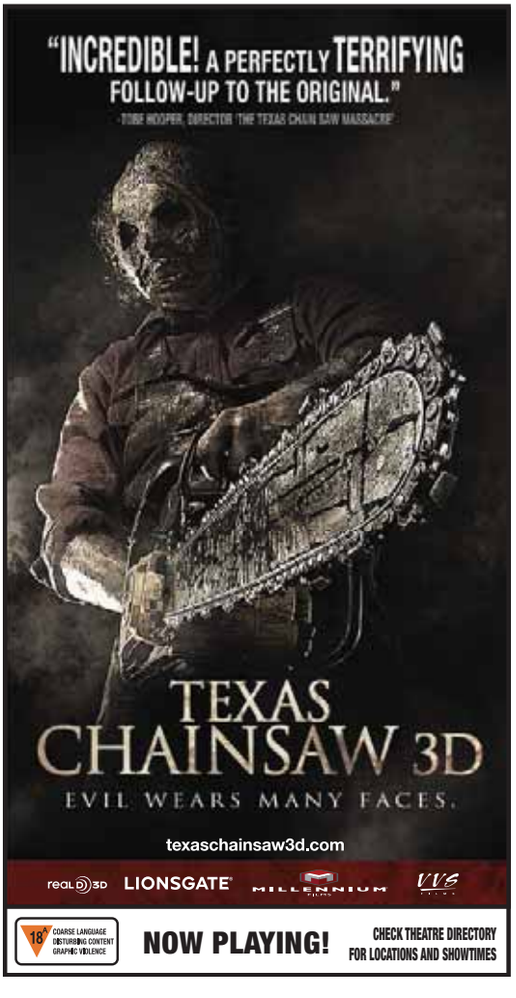
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Josh Brolin. Actor talks Sean Penn and the positives of pugilism

Josh Brolin is an all-business detective in Gangster Squad. HANDOUT

Josh Brolin is making a habit out of going up against Sean Penn on screen as real-life rivals. But for their latest team-up, Gangster Squad, the Milk co-stars switch sides, with Penn's gangster Mickey Cohen pursued by Brolin's boy scout detective John O'Mara in 1949 Los Angeles. In our chat with Brolin, we hit on some of his favourite topics, including the lost art of fisticuffs and the importance of being willing to look like an idiot to be a good actor.

Your John O'Mara is a hard-charging, all-business detective in a fedora with a square jaw. So basically Dick Tracy, right?

That's not a bad thing. I mean, it's funny because I had problems with the dialogue at the beginning when we were first going through the script, and I think the decision between all of us was made to kind of pull some of that dialogue away and make him a little more laconic than he was intended in the beginning, and I think that was right. It was this kind of Clint Eastwood-ian take on the guy that I think was good and let Sean kind of do what Sean was doing, which was bigger, and then Ryan (Gosling) doing what he was doing, which was more ad-libbing.

You've got an impressive fist fight with Sean Penn in this film for which no stunt men were used.

That was a good fist fight. I felt really good about that. I mean, I like fist-fighting anyway. I just like the concept of fist-fighting, I just think it's a lost art. I was talking to my dad about this, and I was like, I wonder if there was less violence — less extreme violence — back when people could fist-fight and actually it would be OK, as opposed to you touch me and I touch you and we sue each other.

NED EHRBAR/MWN

Gosling turns his rash rage on the bad guys

Gangster Squad. Actor's itchy wool costume gave him the hate he needed to get tough on a gaggle of criminals

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Gangster Squad opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Ryan Gosling's character in Gangster Squad is a smooth-talking charmer who's quick with a joke.

So, not really much of a stretch for the actor. In fact, it's tough to get anything like a straight answer out of him. For instance, when asked what was challenging about taking on 1940s L.A. cop Jerry Wooters, Gosling offers, "it was challenging for me when I realized that I was not going to get a Tommy gun. I thought for sure I would have one. Instead, I got a little, tiny lady gun. (Co-star) Josh (Brolin) kind of hogged the Tommy gun. So, that was difficult for me."

And what about the high-pitched voice he used for Wooters? Did that come from his research into the man himself? Not exactly.

"That was more of a wardrobe issue," Gosling offers. And speaking of his wardrobe: "The wool was quite itchy, so I had a rash," he says. "I channelled that irritation into my hatred for the gangsters."

It might not be surprising to learn, then, that one of Gosling's main sources of inspiration for his performance was one of the era's most entertaining characters. "I always kind of admired how Bugs Bunny was not above dressing like a lady in order to get out of trouble," he says.

"I thought that that could be interesting in this in some way, this person trying to make themselves inconspicuous. That was in my head. But I also was trying to relate that as well to the idea that this is a real person. I think it's important to note that the man himself was a much braver, more admirable character than the version of him that I play in the film."

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Texas Chainsaw 3D

Watch Metro's Ned Ehrbar's on-camera chat with Texas Chainsaw 3D stars Trey Songz and Alexandria Daddario online at metronews.ca/scene. Texas Chainsaw 3D opens today. METRO

Real family drama

Tough stuff on the tube. Characters on autism spectrum appearing more on television, but is media getting it right?

NBC show Parenthood stars Peter Krause as Adam and Max Burkholder as his son, Max. CHRIS HASTON

When Parenthood creator Jason Katims created the character Max Braverman — an intelligent, inscrutable, insect-obsessed youngster with Asperger's — he had in mind his own son, Sawyer, who was similarly diagnosed.

But while many are absorbed in the travails of the mop-topped Max on the generously open-hearted family drama, Katims' own teenaged son isn't among them.

"Everybody else in the family watches it, but he doesn't," the Emmy Award winner said in a recent telephone interview, chuckling softly.

"He'll really just watch sports, it's really all he's interested in watching. He also likes things like politics and conspiracy theories, those kinds of things. But he doesn't really watch scripted television.

"I mean, he's trying to put me out of business."

Fortunately for Katims, millions of other people are paying close attention — particularly those with a loved one on the autism spectrum.

It's clear that some of the challenges faced by the autistic population have captured the imagination of TV writers, who are increasingly penning eccentric characters whose quirks would seem to align with typical characteristics of ASD on shows including The Big Bang Theory, Bones and Community.

These characters are never diagnosed, but they are smart, focused and passionate about certain subjects, stubbornly rigid and navigate human relationships with either much effort or bemused distance, confused by sarcasm, idioms or other unspoken rules of social interaction that come naturally to most.

These characters are also incredibly familiar to some people on the spectrum and those around them.

But if these shows are helping to craft the popular understanding of a neural disorder still largely shrouded in mystery, it must be asked: Are they getting it right? And how do people on the spectrum or those close to them feel about the representations?

It was a consideration of crucial importance to Katims, who of course counts himself among that community. When the 52-year-old began developing Parenthood, he saw an opportunity to tell stories that weren't being told on television: His own.

But he also felt a heavy sense of responsibility almost immediately.

"When we were starting out, I really had a lot of apprehension about our ability to tell the story accurately," he said.

"I was sort of overwhelmed by the challenge of doing that and was sort of determined to make it not feel like a bad television version of it, but to make it feel real."

One way he accomplished that was by culling many of Max's stories from his own life. Though Katims does his best to nimbly sidestep autobiography, sometimes he'll casually share details of his home life with his writers, leave the room, and come back to find his personal anecdote expertly adapted into a pitch for a storyline.

The show (which airs Monday nights on Global) also employs behavioural psychologist Wayne Tashjian to work with the show's cast and crew to ensure accuracy.

And Katims is quick to pay lavish praise to precocious 15-year-old star Max Burkholder, who portrays his TV counterpart with such a keen eye for detail, Katims says he's been able to delve far deeper into Max's journey than he originally anticipated.

"There's this cathartic element of being able to write about something that's personal to me, and put it out there in the world," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diagnoses on the rise

Sadly, the number of families with a loved one on the autism spectrum is growing

- One in 88 American children has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) according to the Centers for Disease Control and — while no federal monitoring system exists in Canada to provide a similar rate of prevalence — ASD is the most common childhood neurological disorder or severe developmental disability here.
- A controversial decision was recently made to fold Asperger syndrome, a type of high-functioning autism, into an umbrella diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder.

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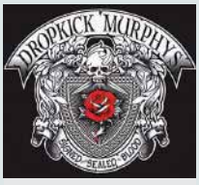
Getting music sales in 2013 off to a good start

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

After running ahead of 2011 for 50 weeks, Canadian music sales will finish the year a couple of ticks behind. Perhaps these releases will help.



Rose Tattoo/ Dropkick Murphys

Signed and Sealed in Blood is the DM's eighth album, which comes out Jan. 8. The CD cover will feature fan tattoos of the band's logo.

Shuggie/ Foxygen

A single from the grandly entitled record, We Are the 21st Century Ambassadors of Peace & Magic. That should tell you something about their head space.

True North/ Bad Religion

True North was supposed to be out before Christmas, but that didn't happen. We'll finally get it on Jan. 22. Track one is the title track.

Country legend wants you to Dream More — and buy her book

Dolly Parton.
Singer is sharing her life philosophies, pathways to success in a book full of 'little slogans' to help you

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

Dolly Parton's new book, Dream More, is based on a graduation speech she gave. GETTY IMAGES

If there's an expert in dreaming big and achieving your heart's greatest desires, it's Dolly Parton. Growing up the fourth of 12 children to a poor tobacco farmer in Tennessee, Parton realized her biggest dream — singing on the Grand Ole Opry stage — at the age of 13. Now 66 and a certified country music icon, Parton is sharing her philosophy for success in her new book Dream More.

"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help," Parton says.

With that approach, writing her experiences to share in the book "just rolled out," she says.

Dream More is based on the wisdom the singer delivered in a 2009 commencement speech at the University of Tennessee.

A sweet, concise little book of inspiration, it is broken into four chapters that define the principles Parton lives by: Dream more, learn more, care more and be more.

"You have to come up with little slogans ... and I just thought those were beautiful words," Parton says of her preparation to deliver a message of hope to graduates.

It was only when she began to expand on those "slogans" for the book that she realized "what all those things really meant for me," she says. "That's really who I am and how I've lived my life."

More from Dolly

Despite her hardscrabble background, Dolly Parton's bubbly, oversized personality bursts with warmth and positivity. The power of a good attitude is a message she shares in Dream More. She says she tries to live this message in her everyday life and inspire it in others.

- **Quote.** "I've always hoped for things to be good, but I've also learned the best way to make things good is to make things good," she says. "If things are really falling apart, don't just fall into that — try to mend it, try to fix it, try to move forward."

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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebs call for tougher paparazzi rules in wake of photographer's death

The 29-year-old photographer had just snapped shots of Justin Bieber's white Ferrari when he was struck and killed by a passing car — a death that has spurred renewed debate over dangers paparazzi can bring on themselves and the celebrities they chase.

The accident prompted some stars, including the teen heartthrob himself, to renew calls for tougher laws to rein in their pursuers, though previous urgings have been stymied by First Amendment protections.

The Los Angeles County coroner's office confirmed Thursday that the photographer was Christopher James Guerra.

In a statement, Bieber said his prayers were with the photographer's family. Ironically, the singer wasn't even in the Ferrari on Tuesday.

"Hopefully this tragedy will finally inspire meaningful legislation and whatever other necessary steps to protect the lives and safety of celebrities, police officers, innocent public bystanders and the photographers themselves," Bieber said in a statement released by Island Def Jam Music Group.

Much of Hollywood was abuzz about the death, including Miley Cyrus, who sent several tweets critical of some of the actions of paparazzi and lamenting that the unfortunate accident was "bound to happen."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Paparazzi are dangerous! Wasn't Princess Di enough of a wake-up call?!"

Miley Cyrus, via Twitter

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Worst celebrity tattoos

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

In honour of the news that Lil' Wayne got "Baked" tattooed above his right eye (aren't you glad he doesn't have a real job? Can you imagine him sitting in front of HR?), The Word is compiling some of the worst celebrity tattoos.

Scarlett Johansson got this wrist tattoo last year that has "I Love NY" written inside the "charm." At this point in her career, can't she get a bracelet that's removable?

Kelly Osbourne has skull and crossbones, complete with pink bows, on her feet. Next time she critiques someone else's choices on Fashion Police, remember this.

Hayden Panettiere's side tattoo "Vivere senza rimipianti" should read "to live without regrets" in Italian. Sadly, the Italian word for "regrets" is "rimpianti" meaning her tat is misspelled. So, yeah, about that whole "living without regrets" thing...

Lindsay Lohan's "shhhh" finger tattoo isn't really working for her, is it?

Ke$ha

Ke$ha opens up about dating men ... and women

Ke$ha tells the latest issue of Seventeen that she doesn't look at the sex of a person she wants to date, she looks at the whole person. "I don't love just men. I love people. It's not about a gender. It's just about the spirit that exudes from that other person you're with," she says. She also recounts how she uses setbacks she experienced earlier in her life to motivate herself. "I remember every person who told me I couldn't do something or that I was ugly or too fat. I have a 's— list' — people from my past who have been soulless and judgmental."

Twitter

@ChrisColfer
Happy New Year everyone! Hope 2013 is everything you want it to be! Unless you're a Mayan enthusiast, then my condolences.

@azizansari
RAMP UP 2013 RIGHT NOW, THROW ON MARK MORRISON'S RETURN OF THE MACK RIGHT NOW

@ConanO'Brien
To ring in the New Year, I'm heading to D.C. to watch Congress drop the ball. #whatdoyoumeanimthe5000000thpersontomakethisjoke?

@KatieCouric
In 2013 I am going to try to declutter my life. Floss more. Write more handwritten thank you notes. What about you??

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Give the beef a break and reach for bison

Seared Bison with Sage and Gnocchi.
Red meat alternative is gaining popularity

Now is the perfect time to venture down the culinary path with bison, an alternative red meat that is showing up at more and more grocers.

So let's start with the name. The critter you know as the American buffalo really isn't one at all. Turns out the American buffalo (technically a bison) is more closely related to your run-of-the-mill cow.

Bison meat (which is raised without hormones or antibiotics) can be incredibly tender and flavourful, with a sweet, rich beefy flavour.

It also happens to be amazingly lean, packing fewer calories and less fat than beef and even skinless chicken.

That low-fat profile comes with a price, however. Like any lean meat, bison has a tendency to cook quickly, so quickly that it's easy to overcook it. And that is why bison has a reputation for being tough. It isn't. If you have bison that is tough, that just means it was overcooked.

You can use bison much as you would beef. The trick is to modify the cooking method (rather than the flavours or other ingredients) to account for the leanness. Here, it's used with Italian potato gnocchi.

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 lb package gnocchi pasta
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 1 1/2 lbs bison steak, thinly sliced across the grain
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh sage
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and ground black pepper

1. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the gnocchi and cook according to package directions. Reserve 1/4 cup of the cooking water, then drain the gnocchi and set aside.

2. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes, then sauté the garlic for 30 seconds.

3. Add the steak and sear on each side for about 1 minute. Don't crowd the pan or the steak will steam rather than sear. If needed, work in batches.

4. Once the steak is seared, add the sage and cooked gnocchi. Cook for 30 seconds, then add the Parmesan. Drizzle in just enough of the reserved cooking water to form a sauce with the melted cheese. Toss, then season with salt and pepper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liquid Assets

2013 booze resolutions

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Well here we are, 2013. Over the holidays, I had more than a few glasses of wine in hopes of finding some inspiration for an appropriate life changing 2013. Unfortunately, all I could come up with were some boozy alternative resolutions to losing weight and managing money better for you, dear readers.

Drink local: There are independent wineries, distilleries and breweries filling bottles with unique liquids in your province. Find, buy and drink.

Get social: Share what you're drinking with your old high school mates and ex-significant others on Twitter or Facebook. Words not your thing? Post a picture. It will last longer.

Channel your inner food fetish: Pick a recipe, any recipe, find a beverage that works with it (just email me, I'll tell ya) and put both in your mouth.

Return to the white side: Reds have been the darling of vinophiles for long enough. In 2013, rediscover the subtle sophistication of something white. Try starting with Fazi Battaglia's 2011 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico ($10.99 to $14.99) – an aromatic, green-fruited Italian with a refreshingly acidic zing. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Going wild for pasta

Wild boar has an assertive flavour, somewhere between pork and venison. The basic guideline: Use it in boldly flavoured dishes just as you would pork and venison. The point isn't to mask the flavour, but to pair it with ingredients that don't get smothered by it.

Where to begin? Try it in this ragu over fettuccine.

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 lbs ground wild boar
- 1 cup red wine
- 15-oz can tomato sauce
- 6-oz can tomato paste
- 1 lb fettuccine pasta
- 2 tbsp chopped basil
- 1 tbsp fresh oregano
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Grated Parmesan cheese, for serving

1. In saucepan over medium-high, heat olive oil. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic. Sauté 6 mins., or until onion is translucent.

2. Add boar and cook until browned, 10 mins. Add wine and cook, scraping pan, until wine has mostly evaporated. Add tomato sauce and paste. Bring to simmer; cook 10 mins.

3. Bring saucepan of salted water to boil. Add fettuccine; cook according to package.

4. When pasta is done, stir 1/4 cup of its cooking water into sauce. Drain pasta and transfer to serving bowl. Stir basil and oregano into ragu, then season with salt and pepper. Ladle over pasta. Top with Parmesan cheese. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Jan4

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Motionball Winter Wonderland

On Feb. 8 at Muzik Nightclub (15 Saskatchewan Rd. at Exhibition Place), the 12th annual Motionball gala — this year billed Winter Wonderland — will bring together philanthropists, young professionals, partiers, tastemakers, and fashionistas for an evening in celebration and support of the Special Olympics Canada Foundation. Get your tickets early, this one sells out quickly!

Just Opened: Aprile Bambina Cucina

While the Italian trend gave way to the ramen craze in late 2012, perhaps early 2013 is shifting the trend back? Case in point: The newly opened Aprile Bambina Cucina at 1054 Gerrard St. E. The latest restaurant to grace the Leslieville area is serving up simple Italian food without the frills. Just down-home Italian cooking in a comforting space.

SickKids Soirée

On Jan. 11 at the Azure Bar inside the Intercontinental Hotel (225 Front St. W.), the SickKids Soirée will be a refined evening of sophistication in support of one of the city's most notable causes: the SickKids Foundation. This chic night will see the city's top young professionals and influencers out for networking, cocktails and to raise funds and awareness for the dedicated foundation.

Winterlicious 2013

Yes, the time has come once again for our favourite 12-day tour de food. Winterlicious 2013 takes over more than 190 of the city's top restaurants from Jan. 25 to Feb. 7, offering up 3-course lunches and dinners at remarkable prix fixe pricing. General public reservations start on Thursday, so for those looking to hit up hotspots like Colborne Lane and Canoe, you best get your phones ready.

Toronto's Ultimate Travel Show

At the Direct Energy Centre (Exhibition Place) on Jan 26 and 27, experience the world at Toronto's Ultimate Travel Show. Travel junkies, vacation veterans and globe-trotting neophytes take note. This show features exhibits from around the world, showcasing the best and brightest of the globe's many cultures. Find travel deals, amazing info and tours, and start planning your 2013 trips!

The Wedding Co. Show

From Jan. 11 through 13 at the Carlu (seventh floor, 444 Yonge St.), The Wedding Co. Show is the penultimate experience for those on the trip to the alter. The 12th annual event features the finest in Toronto's wedding industry, with more than 100 designers, artists, services and more. The perfect way to prep for yours or your kin's summer nuptials, The Wedding Co. Show is a gorgeous affair for those ready to say, "I do."

Canadian captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, right, hangs his head with teammates after losing 5-1 to Team USA on Thursday in Ufa, Russia. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An inglorious end to Canada's gold hopes

World juniors. Talent-laden Canadians' title drought extended to four years in Russia

An NHL lockout has helped lift Canada to gold at past world junior hockey championships.

But not this time.

Canada dominated en route to gold in 1995 and 2005 when the NHL also locked out its players.

Another labour stoppage this year meant coach Steve Spott had most of the country's top 19-year-old talent available to him.

But bronze is the best this Canadian team can do after a 5-1 loss to the United States in Thursday's semifinal.

The Americans and defending champion Sweden will play for gold, while Canada takes on the hosts for bronze Saturday in Ufa, Russia. The Swedes edged Russia 3-2 in a shootout in the other semifinal.

Canada must find solace in extending its run of medals in this tournament to 15 consecutive years.

"We've got to come home with a medal," captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said. "It's not the one we want to come home with, but we've got to do it for our country."

Canada beat the U.S. and Russia en route to finishing first in Pool B at 4-0 to earn a bye to the semifinal. But for the second straight year, Canada failed to parlay the bye into a berth in the gold-medal game.

"For it to happen again, it's pretty heartbreaking," said second-year forward Mark Scheifele.

The International Ice Hockey Federation is doing away with the bye starting in 2014, so the tournament will feature four quarter-finals instead of two.

So while the Americans flexed their scoring muscles in a 7-0 win over the Czech Republic in Wednesday's quarter-final, the Canadians vowed after practice the same day they couldn't have a slow start Thursday.

But they went out and did just that. The firepower that Canada purportedly had up front did not fire.

Scheifele, Jonathan Huberdeau and Ryan Strome would probably have joined Nugent-Hopkins in the NHL this season if not for the lockout. All four were held off the scoresheet.

When Spott chose his 23 players at selection camp in Calgary last month, he said he did so with speed in mind. It was the Americans who made Canada look like they were standing still for two periods Thursday.

Led by Calgary Flames prospect John Gaudreau and captain Jake McCabe, the U.S. beat Canada to the puck at both ends of the ice for 40 minutes to build a 4-0 lead.

Unlike last year's 6-5 semifinal loss to Russia in Calgary, where Canada scored four third-period goals, this Canadian team didn't rally to make it close. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What to watch for on Saturday

A glance at Saturday's bronze-medal game between Canada and Russia (4 a.m., TSN):

- **Ryan Nugent-Hopkins** — Held off the scoresheet in semifinal loss, Canada's captain needs to create scoring chances on top line.
- **Jonathan Drouin** — A chance for 17-year-old forward to further raise his stock for the NHL draft.
- **Nikita Kucherov** — Forward for the QMJHL's Rouyn-Noranda Huskies leads Russians in scoring.
- **Nail Yakupov** — Has been guilty of trying to do too much on his own. Time to start distributing the puck.

By the numbers

3

Playing a quarter-final doesn't seem to be an impediment to world-junior gold. Three of the last five champions played a quarter-final.

Lockout

NHLPA wastes little time in restarting 'disclaimer' process

Less than a day after letting a self-imposed deadline pass to declare a "disclaimer of interest," NHL players began voting to restore their executive board's authority to dissolve the union.

The NHLPA's membership began voting on the disclaimer at 6 p.m. ET on Thursday, according to a source. It will be conducted over a 48-hour period.

The first vote, held last month, passed overwhelmingly. Should the same thing happen again and the NHLPA elects to notify the league it is disclaiming, it would open the door for players to file anti-trust lawsuits.

The new disclaimer vote was part of a day that saw much more action away from the bargaining room than in it. The NHLPA also filed its statement of defence with the district court in New York, arguing that the lawsuit filed by the NHL last month should be dismissed because it was brought forward for "strategic reasons."

The sides met in small groups on Thursday — a departure from the large sessions of recent days. NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr led a group of players and staff into an afternoon meeting while a smaller group returned in the evening to discuss the pension plan.

Both the league and union spent time meeting independently with U.S. federal mediator Scot Beckenbaugh and were scheduled to gather with him again on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr GETTY IMAGES FILE

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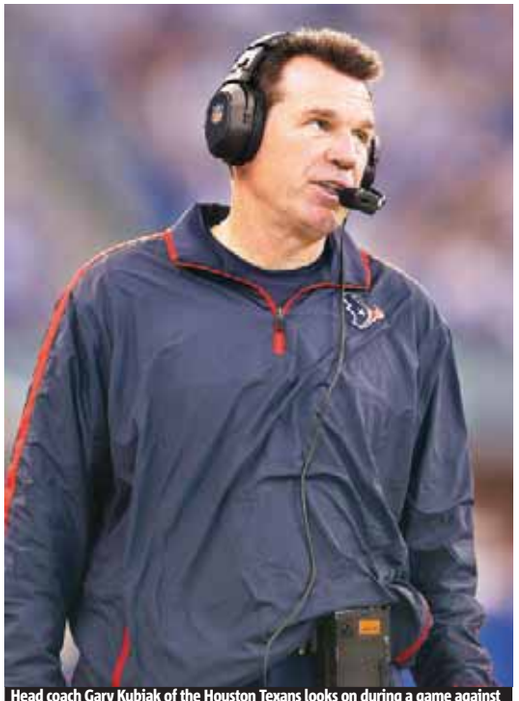
Who's afraid of the wild-card round?



Head coach Gary Kubiak of the Houston Texans looks on during a game against the Indianapolis Colts on Dec. 30 in Indianapolis. The Colts defeated the Texans 28-16. Houston lost three of its last four games and must now play in the wild-card round of the NFL playoffs. JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

NFL. One of the Super Bowl participants in six of last seven years didn't start the playoffs with a bye week

NFL teams have no fear of playing in the wild-card round.

Recent history shows the playoff bye isn't such a big deal anymore. In six of the last seven years, one of the Super Bowl participants didn't get a bye to begin the post-season. And five of those teams wound up winning the NFL title.

So Green Bay's blowing the bye by losing to Minnesota last Sunday might not be such a setback. Same for Houston, which had an even bigger fall, fumbling away home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs as well as the week off, by losing three of its last four.

Of course, Texans coach Gary Kubiak recognizes the week-to-week nature of pro football, and how things can change quickly in seven days — and last for a month, right to a championship.

"That's life, and that's part of football," Kubiak said. "How'd you play last week? How have you played the last few weeks? What have you done lately? That's our world. We understand that, and it hasn't been good the last few weeks, so hopefully we get it better."

Nobody knows how to achieve that improvement more than the Packers. Two years ago, they barely squeezed into the playoffs, then raced to three road victories and then a title win over Pittsburgh.

"I'd have preferred a week off, to be honest with you," Packers receiver Jordy Nelson said. "But we put ourselves in this situation throughout the whole year. It's not just this last game.

"Whatever it takes, we just have to win from here on out."

That begins Saturday night at Lambeau Field against Minnesota. Had the Packers beaten the Vikings last Sunday, they would be sitting at home this weekend watching the Bears play at San Francisco. Instead, they will trudge onto the tundra to face rushing king Adrian Peterson, who ran around, through and over them for 199 yards to get the Vikings into the playoffs.

The Vikings had no chance for a bye; they never really were in the chase for the NFC North title. They're just glad to be in the tournament, knowing that the Steelers, Colts, Packers and Giants (twice) recently covered the lengthier route to the NFL championship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The cool thing about the playoffs is that once you get in, anything can happen." Defensive end Jared Allen and his Minnesota Vikings just got in the playoffs as the No. 6 seed in the NFC

Hot teams

Some teams already are on winning streaks.

- Denver has won 11 straight to grab the top spot in the AFC.
- Washington takes a seven-game winning streak into Sunday's home game against Seattle, winner of five in a row.

Playoff analysis

Rushing puts teams over the top

As much as the NFL is a passing league, it still helps to be able to run the ball.

In playoff games during the Super Bowl era, teams with a 100-yard rusher are 157-37, a .809 winning percentage, while teams with a 300-yard passer are 57-66, only .463, according to STATS LLC.

The Redskins and Seahawks — who play each other Sunday — and the Vikings are unabashedly putting emphasis on running. That trio of playoff participants had the league's top rushers in Adrian Peterson, Alfred Morris and Marshawn Lynch.

The top three quarterbacks in yards passing, meanwhile, are done for the season: Drew Brees, Matthew Stafford and Tony Romo.

Says Washington's Santana Moss: "When you really want to win games, you have to have both parts of your offence working, the air and the ground."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	22	8	.733	—
New York	22	10	.688	1
Atlanta	20	10	.667	2
Indiana	19	13	.594	4
Chicago	17	13	.567	5
Milwaukee	16	14	.533	6
Brooklyn	17	15	.531	6
Philadelphia	15	18	.455	8½
Boston	14	17	.452	8½
Toronto	12	20	.375	11
Orlando	12	20	.375	11
Detroit	12	22	.353	12
Charlotte	8	23	.258	14½
Cleveland	7	26	.212	16½
Washington	4	26	.133	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	24	7	.774	—
San Antonio	26	9	.743	—
L.A. Clippers	25	8	.758	—
Memphis	20	9	.690	3
Golden State	22	10	.688	2½
Houston	18	14	.563	6½
Denver	18	15	.545	7
Portland	16	15	.516	8
Minnesota	14	14	.500	8½
Utah	16	17	.485	9
L.A. Lakers	15	16	.484	9
Dallas	13	20	.394	12
Sacramento	12	20	.375	12½
Phoenix	12	21	.364	13
New Orleans	7	25	.219	17½

Thursday's results
New York 100 San Antonio 83
Minnesota at Denver
Wednesday's results
Toronto 102 Portland 79
Brooklyn 110 Oklahoma City 93
Chicago 96 Orlando 94
Houston 104 New Orleans 92
Golden State 115 L.A. Clippers 94
Indiana 89 Washington 81
Memphis 93 Boston 83
Miami 119 Dallas 109 (OT)
Phoenix 95 Philadelphia 89
Sacramento 97 Cleveland 94
San Antonio 117 Milwaukee 110
Utah 106 Minnesota 84
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Sacramento at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Houston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

At Brisbane, Australia
Men's Singles — Second Round
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. **Milos Raonic (2), Thornhill, Ont.**, 6-3, 6-4.
Alexandr Dolgopolov (4), Ukraine, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-2, 4-1, retired.
Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, def. Tommy Robredo, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Jurgen Melzer (7), Austria, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 7-5, 7-5.
Women's Singles — Quarter-finals
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-0.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Angelique Kerber (4), Germany, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).
Second Round
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 6-3, 6-3.

ATP CHENNAI OPEN

At Chennai, India
Men's Doubles — First Round
Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and **Daniel Nestor (1), Toronto**, def. N. Sriram Balaji, India, and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, India, 6-3, 6-0.

NFL

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
AFC — Cincinnati at Houston, 4:30 p.m.
NFC — Minnesota at Green Bay, 8 p.m.
Sunday's games
AFC — Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
NFC — Seattle at Washington, 4:30 p.m.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 12
AFC — Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
NFC — Washington, Seattle or Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 13
NFC — Washington, Seattle or Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
AFC — Baltimore, Indianapolis or Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday, Jan. 20
AFC and NFC, TBA

IIHF WORLD JUNIORS

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

Thursday's results
SEMIFINALS
U.S. 5 **Canada 1**
Sweden 3 Russia 2 (SO)
Wednesday's results
QUARTER-FINALS
U.S. 7 Czech Republic 0
Russia 4 Switzerland 3 (SO)
Friday's game — All Times Eastern
FIFTH PLACE
Czech Republic vs. Switzerland, 8 a.m.
Saturday's games
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Canada vs. Russia, 4 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Sweden vs. U.S., 8 a.m.

RELEGATION BRACKET

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Finland	2	2	0	0	0	13	1	6
Slovakia	2	1	1	0	0	7	4	5
Germany	2	0	0	1	1	1	10	1
Latvia	2	0	0	0	2	4	10	0

Thursday's result
Slovakia 5 Latvia 3
Wednesday's result
Finland 8 Germany 0
Friday's games
Latvia vs. Germany, 4 a.m.
Finland vs. Slovakia, 8 a.m.

U.S. 5, CANADA 1

First Period
1. U.S., McCabe 2 (Reilly, Barber) 7:18.
2. U.S., McCabe 3 (Grimaldi, Trochek) 16:02.
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. U.S., Gaudreau 6 (McCabe, Gibson) 2:58
4. U.S., Vesey 1 (Gaudreau, Miller) 12:44
Penalties — Nugent-Hopkins Cda (slashing) 6:48, Murphy US (tripping) 9:46, Reinhart Cda (high-sticking) 14:20, Camara Cda (high-sticking) 18:54.
Third Period
5. Canada, Rattie 3, 4:03 (sh)
6. U.S., Gaudreau 7 (Vesey, Miller) 5:41
Penalties — Sheifele Cda (kneeing), Sieloff US (handling the puck) 0:48, Canada bench (too many men; served by Ritchie) 2:57, Gaudreau US (high-sticking) 9:55, Camara Cda (high-sticking) 15:56, Danault Cda (kneeing) 18:58, Reinhard Cda (cross-checking) 20:00.
Shots on goal by

U.S.	12	12	16 — 42
Canada	8	10	16 — 34

Goal (shots-saves) — U.S.: Gibson (W, 4-2): Canada: Subban (L,4-1, 16-12), Binnington (12:44 second; 26-25).
Power plays (goals-chances) — U.S.: 0-6; Canada, 0-2.
Attendance — 4,781 (8,250) at Ufa, Russia.

MLB

Former Blue Jays reliever signs with Rangers

Setup reliever Jason Frasor signed a $1.5 million U.S. one-year deal Thursday with the Texas Rangers.

The 35-year-old right-hander spent most of his career with Toronto, setting a Blue Jays franchise record with 505 appearances since his major league debut in 2004.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Italian soccer

Racist chants mar friendly match

A friendly match between AC Milan and lower-division club Pro Patria was abandoned Thursday after Milan's players walked off the pitch because of racist chants, the latest incident of racial abuse blighting the sport in Europe.

After repeated chants directed his way, Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng picked up the ball and kicked it at a section of the crowd in the 26th minute of the first half.

Boateng then took off his shirt and walked off with his Milan teammates. Urby Emanuelson, Sulley Muntari and M'Baye Niang were also targeted by the chants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis. Raonic loses a slug fest in Brisbane

Canadian Milos Raonic made an early exit at the Brisbane International on Thursday, dropping a 6-3, 6-4 decision in his opening match to Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

Raonic, from Thornhill, Ont., conceded just three points on his own first serve in the second-round match-up, but was unable to put pressure on his opponent's first serve. Dimitrov won all 26 of his first-serve points in the 61-minute match.

The second-seeded Raonic is 13th in the world rankings, 35 positions ahead of the Bulgarian. Dimitrov will next play No. 7 Jurgen Melzer of Austria, who posted a 6-4, 7-6 (4) win over David Goffin of Belgium.

Meanwhile, Serena Williams had a tough win over the woman she's predicting will one day top the rankings, setting up a semifinal match against current No. 1 Victoria Azarenka.

The reigning Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Olympic champion showed plenty of emotion on key points in a heavy-hitting duel with Fed Cup teammate Sloane Stephens on Thursday before winning 6-4, 6-3.

Williams converted both break points and fended off one break chance against her in each set, later saying Stephens had the potential to be "the best in the world one day."

The 19-year-old Stephens accepted the warm praise from Williams, her childhood idol.

"To have someone like that who I think is one of the greatest players to ever play the game say that about you is really nice," Stephens said. "I lost to the best player in the world today, so, you know, it's good."

Olympic and U.S. Open champion Andy Murray was pushed before winning his opening match 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 against Australian qualifier John Millman, who finished last year ranked No. 228.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milos Raonic plays against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria on Thursday in Brisbane, Australia. GETTY IMAGES

Marlies' depth comforts head coach

Lockout effect. AHL team could lose a bunch of key players to Leafs training camp should labour dispute end

Life is good these days for Toronto Marlies coach Dallas Eakins.

His team is on a roll, winning 11 of 14 with just one regulation loss and he's been named the Western Conference head coach for the American Hockey League's All-Star Classic on Jan. 28 in Providence.

But his club could face a dramatic shakeup in the next week if the NHL settles its labour war with its players. Perhaps six, maybe more, of his best players could be skating at the Maple Leafs training camp with some making the big club.

Is he worried the heart of his Western Conference-leading club (20-9-1-2) could be gutted?

Not one bit.

"We have enough players here if we lose two or lose five. We've got enough players to be covered off," Eakins said on Thursday after practice at the Ricoh Coliseum following Wednesday night's 6-0 romp over the Hamilton Bulldogs. "We've had to put a number of guys in the East Coast League, who we haven't forgotten. We've got lots of players to fill wholes if the need arises."

Certainly forward Matt Frattin will head to the Leafs camp if there is one. So will defenceman Jake Gardiner once he recovers fully from concussion-like symptoms that have kept him out of the lineup since last month.

Quoted

"They want it because they want to be better. No matter how well things are we can still be better."

Marlies coach Dallas Eakins on the team's success and lack of complacency

"After Frattin and Gardiner there are going to be some very difficult and long conversations (about who will attend Leafs camp)," said Eakins, who declined to name others with a shot.

Defencemen Korbian Holzer would likely get an invite but he's now sidelined with a broken toe so it depends how fast he heals. Blue-liner Mike Kostka, who is 10th in league points with 31 (6-25) is having a terrific season and deserves an invite based on his play.

An educated guess likely puts forwards Nazem Kadri, Carter Ashton, Joe Colborne, Ryan Hamilton and Jerry D'Amigo on the training camp invite list as well.

Goalie Ben Scrivens will also challenge James Reimer for a spot and possibly veteran Roberto Luongo should the long-rumoured trade with Vancouver happen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Marlies defenceman Mike Kostka celebrates scoring a goal during AHL action against the San Antonio Rampage at the Ricoh Coliseum on Dec. 21. Kostka could get a training camp invite with the Toronto Maple Leafs should the NHL labour war be settled soon. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you have been thinking about taking a trip or arranging your next vacation now is the time to get serious about it. Don't go where other people want you to go – go where you feel most inspired.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It may feel as if something good is going out of your life, and maybe it is, but something equally good will replace it within a matter of days. Don't worry: Lady Luck is still on your side.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have only to put a name to your dreams to see them come true. Can it really be that easy? Yes it can. Believe that you deserve the best and you will surely get it over the next few days.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No doubt you wish you could close your eyes and ears to the chaos and confusion that is taking place around you but you can't, so you might as well get used to it. Maybe you should just get more involved.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to feel that you are doing something useful with your talents and today's Mars-Jupiter link will encourage you to reach out into the world and make a difference in some way. You can be a force for change.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find it surprisingly easy to get your way on the work front today. Colleagues and employers seem to think that you can do no wrong and if you are smart you will make the most of it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't let anyone tell you that you are aiming too high today. If anything you are still not aiming high enough. Mars and Jupiter combine in such a way now that no challenge is too much for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You will have to make some big decisions over the next 24 hours and the good news is you will make them quickly and decisively. Financially and professionally you can and you must put your own needs first.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Partnership sand relationships are under good stars today, so reach out to friends and family and let them know how much you enjoy their company. A social event of some kind will bring you all closer together.

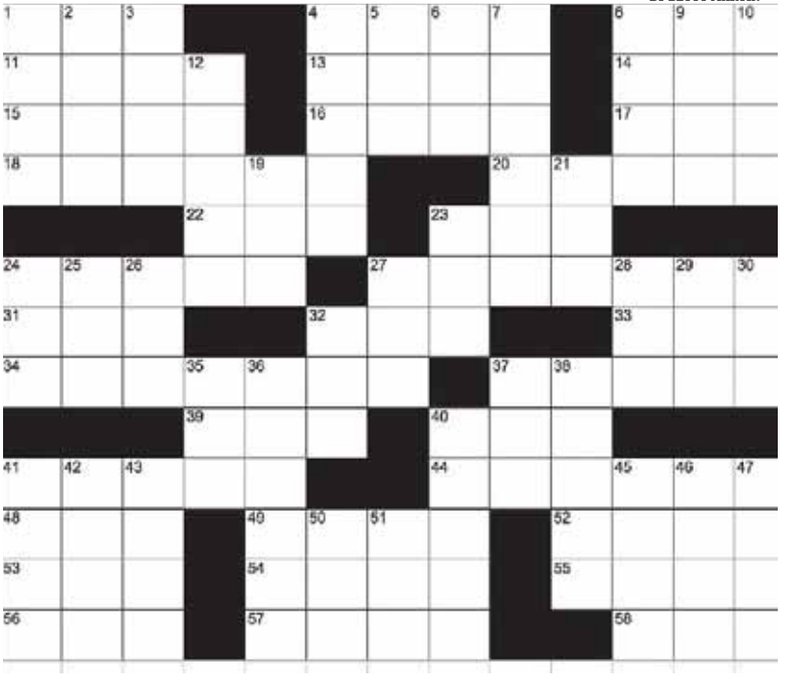
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel stronger than you have for a long time and that's good, but don't suddenly push yourself beyond your natural limits because your body may not be able to take it. You are allowed to rest you know.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your luck will change for the better today. Not that it was bad before but suddenly everything seems to be going your way again. What is it you desire most? Focus on it and soon it will be yours.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It may seems as if your life is heading down a predestined course but that isn't strictly true. You can change your destiny any time you choose, but first you need to believe that it's possible. Start believing today. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

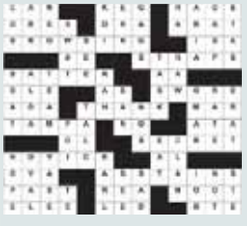
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. – – snail's pace (2 words)
4. Halt
8. Calendar square
11. Clammy
13. Luau fare
14. Devoured
15. Solo
16. Sharif of "Funny Girl"
17. Heavy weight
18. Paper border
20. Mine transports
22. Summer on the Riviera
23. "Anna and the King" actress Ling
24. Not quite right
27. On the same family tree
31. Get into
32. Police dept. rank
33. Spanish gold
34. Playing field
37. Inclined
39. Air quality org.
40. Where the buoys are
41. Give a speech
44. Cell phone feature
48. Buddy
49. Close by
52. Baby buggy
53. St. crosser
54. Jazzy Fitzgerald
55. Sediment
56. Superman foe Luther
57. Regard
58. Old video game letters

Down
1. Role for David Canary on All My Children
2. "Gone with the Wind" plantation
3. Eastern title
4. "Romancing the —"
5. Tartan topper
6. Openings (anat.)
7. Grand entrance
8. Facts
9. Wee bit
10. Strong desires
12. Book contents
19. TGIF part
21. Inlet
23. Wager
24. Total up
25. Reply from Miss Piggy
26. – — funk (moody)
27. Lipstick colour
28. Also
29. Shore bird
30. Forest female
32. Genetic initials
35. How I — Your Mother
36. Started the bidding
37. Stew ingredient
38. Highway exits
40. "Get lost!"
41. October birthstone
42. Great review
43. Role for Michael J. Fox
45. Emerald Isle
46. Breathing sound
47. Qtys.
50. Letter after ka in Spanish
51. Bar order

Yesterday's Crossword



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4				5		3	9	
9		1			6			
7	2	8				1		
6								8
		4				6	3	7
			7			5		2
	1	7		2				3
			9					6

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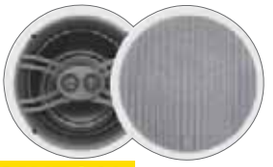

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